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The COLUMBIAN AND Balance, REPOSITORY.

"HAIL SACRED POLITY, BY FREEDOM REAR'D!
"HAIL SACRED FREEDOM, WHEN BY LAW RESTRAIN'D!"
BEATTIE.

HUDSON, (New-York) TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1807.

Original.

Hither the products of your closet-labors bring,
Enrich our columns, and instruct mankind.

FOR THE BALANCE.

PROPOSALS for printing by subscription, "A HISTORY of the war between the Mahteehmites and Nacilbuperites," &c.

(CONTINUATION.)

EXTRACTS.

"THE leaders of the Mahteehmites, at the end of the campaign, when they had a relaxation from arms, judged it prudent to refresh and enliven their followers by giving them a splendid feast. The fourteen butchers were, accordingly, directed to provide a beast to be roasted whole, on the joyful occasion. Whether there was a scarcity at that time in the market, or whether they followed their own judgments, they chose an old, large, and black bull. The bull had been very useful in his generation; but was now, through age, blindness, and an accident which had happened to one of his hind legs, rendered incapable of further service. The farmer to whom he belonged had, therefore, fatted and driven him to the market, saying to himself, "His hide will, at least, bring me something." The majority of the fourteen butchers were of opinion, that the bull, by baiting, and killing him a day or two before he was roasted, would be fit for mastication, and fully answer the purpose intended.

"It would be tedious as well as unnecessary to describe particularly the manner in which the animal was prepared—how he was knocked in the head—his throat cut—flayed—his entrails taken out—placed on a machine contrived to turn before a large fire—and basted. Suffice it to say that nothing usual in transactions of this kind was omitted. Strict orders had been given to the soothsayers to inspect the entrails; for as the bull had lived many years, so it was believed he had many things to tell.

"When the bull was so far roasted that part of him could be eaten; for it would have been in vain to have expected him to be done through, without burning up entirely the outside; the chiefs drew near, and formed a circle. There was seen the Emperor LITNON, of majestic port. There, His Excellency Gen. MAHTEEH, surrounded by his Aids. There, LONGIMANUS, General of the ordnance. There, Adjutant-General SMOCK. There, Generals ROOSTER, NICKSHINS, &c. with a long train of field-officers. And there, SLAWKENBERGIUS, a Hessian sutler, who had been directed to supply the drink. The army was drawn up in the rear.

"Silence being commanded by sound of trumpet, Col. Polypus drew his cutlass, and severed a piece from the neck of the bull just where it joins the shoulder; which he presented to General Mahteeh on the point of his weapon; another Aid presenting him, at the same time, with a goblet of wine.—These the General delivered, with great solemnity, into the hands of Eniap the priest, who offered the meat, and poured out the wine to the Goddess REASON; preferring the following prayer:

"O GODDESS! The supreme and unerring Directress of all human actions! Who teacheth us every thing we wish and ought to know! Both how we are to live here, and what shall be our fate hereafter! We humbly beseech thy resplendent Majesty to continue to illuminate us! And grant us strength to cut up our enemies, even as we cut up this bull this day!

"And ye attendant Deities, LIBERTY and EQUALITY! Be pleased to shower down upon us thy servants, comfortable offices! And let every other power be consumed, even as the bones of this bull shall be consumed to ashes! Amen."

"The officers having then partook, each of a small slice, they withdrew with martial music; and the army was ordered to advance by platoons. Finding, however, that this would spend a long time, and that some were likely to get no share at all, orders were given to advance promiscuously and in a body. In a few minutes, not a particle of the bull was to be seen, save the bones which were afterwards collected, and thrown into the fire. The only misfortune which happened was to Slawkenbergius, the sutler, whose stalls were overturned, his cider, beer and wine vessels staved; in short, a total wreck made of all he had. Thus ended the bull-feast."

T. W.

(To be continued.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BALANCE.

I AM pleased to find, by your paper, that a writer is engaged in so valuable a work, and one so much needed, as "A History of the war between the MAHTEEHMITES and NACILBUPERITES." Though a few trifling inaccuracies might be pointed out, and which may be corrected before publication, yet the EXTRACTS which have been given, discover careful research, and a good historical style.

It is to be lamented that so little assistance is frequently afforded to persons who engage in such laborious undertakings. Indolence, inattention, or business, hinders many from giving a writer that information which he in vain seeks of himself, and which would be of essential service to him. Even to direct to the sources from which information can be derived, is of real advantage. For my own part, I shall consider it my duty to assist the author of this history, all in my power. It would be useful, were he to make known in what things he is at a loss—what documents he wants—and what characters he finds the most difficult justly to describe.

Some complain that the writer fails in perspicuity. This I apprehend arises partly from his conciseness, and partly from

the nature of the things which he relates. Both may be remedied by the addition of notes; though I think they should be as few as possible. A multitude of notes, as is the fashion of some late writers, is troublesome to the reader. They should, wherever they conveniently can, be interwoven with the text.

CRITICUS.

Governor's Speech.

ALBANY, January 27.

The two Houses of the Legislature of this State, met this day at the City-Hall in the city of Albany, when his excellency the Governor appeared in the Assembly Chamber precisely at 2 o'clock, and delivered the following

SPEECH:

Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly,

IN looking back on the events of the past year we find abundant cause for gratitude and mutual felicitation. Our commercial cities, in the whole extent of the continent, have been exempted from the scourge of that malignant disease which has so frequently depopulated them, and interrupted their commerce. Our country has progressed in wealth and strength with a rapidity unparalelled. Our exterior relations have assumed a brighter aspect, since the just and pacific disposition of our government has placed our differences with foreign powers in a train for amicable adjustment. Our public debt has been greatly diminished. Our burthens are scarcely perceptible, and a general prosperity rewards the various exertions of our citizens. Such a state of things evinces the blessing of Heaven on a wise administration of our national concerns.

In this general dispensation of benefits, our own state has merited and received an unrivalled portion. In the course of a few years, she has outstripped her confederates, in those important sources of national greatness, agriculture and commerce; and is not behind the foremost of them in improvements in the useful and fine arts. The first of these assertions is supported by a comparison of exports from the city of New-York, with those from the city of Philadelphia, during the short period of five or six years; which affords an unerring criterion, and establishes this important fact: That, while each has experienced a rapid increase, the former which, at the commencement of the period, was far behind, has, previous to its termination, overtaken and gone far ahead of the latter. To explain: In the year 1800, the exports from Philadelphia stood in a ratio to those of New-York, of about seven to six—At the close of 1805, those of New-York, were to those of Philadelphia, as twelve to seven nearly. Whence, it is natural to enquire, proceed these results? which are the more remarkable, as Philadelphia has preserved her superiority in population; having considerably upwards of an hundred thousand inhabitants, while New-York has little more than seventy. The question is one which merits the examination of an enlightened people, and the solution of it, if I mistake not, will be found in our spirited exertions in the improvement of roads and navigable streams.—These have facilitated an intercourse between our sea-ports and interior country—have taught the forests to bow beneath the labors of the husbandman—have converted the wilderness into fruitful fields, and have made the desert places rejoice, and blossom as the rose. Similar causes have produced similar effects in Great-Britain, a country unequalled in agriculture, arts, manufactures and commerce. It is little more than fifty years since her attention was earnestly turned to the facilities of internal intercourse. From that period her exports have been progressing, and have nearly attained to an increase of four hundred per cent.; while that of her population has not exceeded ten. A wise government will not fail to improve such advantages.

In the discharge of those duties, Gentlemen, imposed by the constitution on the executive, at the opening of every session of the Legislature, I have little information to give you, and but few subjects to recommend to your deliberation, but such as have on former occasions been submitted. The leading points of republican policy which, under our form of government, ever must have the strongest claims to national consideration, are the encouragement of agriculture and the useful arts, the diffusion of knowledge, by institutions for the promotion of education, the advancement of public justice, and the efficiency of the national force. To these objects we have at no time merited the reproach of being indifferent. Great and honorable exertions have been made—Much however, still remains to be done, which we have the ability to do.

A society has been instituted by the legislature, for the promotion of agriculture and useful arts. But it has ever been so straightened in its pecuniary means, as greatly to circumscribe its utility. Very moderate legislative assistance would enable it to institute a course of agricultural experiments which would be highly beneficial to the community.—It might teach us the art of increasing the product of labor—of improving the breed of useful domestic animals, and the quality of such crude materials as are used in our infant manufactures, and are derived from our own soils and our own flocks. European nations are eminently indebted for their progress in these particulars, to the liberal support of similar institutions.

The act of the 2nd of April, 1805, entitled "An act to raise a fund for the encouragement of common schools," contains an authority to the Comptroller to loan the interest annually arising from the fund thereby established, for the purpose of a cumulative increase of capital to a certain extent. I submit to the legislature the propriety of a similar provision, as to the dividends on the stock held by the state in the Merchants' Bank, and the interest on the loans made under the 14th section of the supply-bill for the year 1803, the principal or capital, in these latter cases, having been appropriated by the legislature to the same wise and benevolent purpose, as in the former. The inducement to this measure is, the slow progress of the first mentioned fund, which without aids will not benefit the rising generation of the present day, whatever it may do for those which shall follow.

In inviting your attention to the subject of public justice, I cannot refrain from again urging the propriety of a revision of the criminal code, that the degrees of punishment may be more accurately proportioned to the comparative magnitude of offences. That the value of a cent should warrant the difference between three and fourteen years imprisonment in the case of Larceny, or that he who alters a receipt for a few shillings, or knowingly passes a piece of false coin of the lowest denomination, which he has honestly received, should be punished as severely, as he who counterfeits the currency of the country, and thereby impairs theconfidence of the community in the general medium of commercial transactions, are certainly defects in the system of criminal jurisprudence, which require a remedy. Instances of some of the latter cases, I understand, actually exist at this moment. Let it not be said, the executive has the power to mitigate the severity of punishment is such cases. The prerogative to pardon vested by the constitution can only be exercised righteously under a discretion strictly legal, or in cases very peculiarly circumstanced, and cannot with propriety pronounce the sanctions of the law unjust.

Repeated applications have been made to me by respectable citizens on the subject of the act entitled "An act for establishing courts of justices of the peace, in and for the city of New-York," which, notwithstanding the amendments made last winter, still continues to excite much uneasiness. The principal ground of complaint is the expence and delay attending prosecutions in those courts. A delay of justice is to the poor man emphatically a denial of justice; particularly in large and populous cities, where the loss of a day's labor is frequently the loss of a day's subsistence to a worthy family. This class of citizens therefore ought never to be subjected to a *fruitless* attendance on courts, nor to the hazard of expences, which shall deter them from prosecuting their rights. As far as the grievances complained of proceed from defects in the organization, jurisprudence, or administration of these inferior tribunals, redress will be found, I trust, in the wisdom and policy of the Legislature.

I should consider myself, Gentlemen, manifestly deficient in the discharge of my duty, were I to relax my exertions to impress on your minds a conviction of the propriety of greater attention to the state of the national force than has yet been bestowed on it. If we are sincere in the belief that standing armies are hostile to liberty and economy, and mean to avoid the necessity of employing them by entrusting the national defence to the militia of the country, that militia should certainly be rendered as efficient as possible. It requires not argument to convince the reflecting mind, that, in the present improved state of military tactics, numbers alone give not national strength—And that well appointed and

well disciplined invading armies, when opposed by ill provided irregulars only, spread desolation, inflict calamity and achieve conquest with little difficulty—Even the generous love of country and the public good, which republics ought to cherish, and which nerves the patriot's arm when encountering the enemies of his native soil, is then, but the sad mean of swelling the dire catalogue of human misery. This is not a picture of the imagination, it is drawn from real life, and I forewarn you in time, Gentlemen, that it may not be realized in our own country. I have been an eye witness to the state of the militia, I have personally inspected nearly the whole, and I can with truth assert to you that they have not, as I verily believe, such arms as a soldier ought to have, and as our law requires, a musket to every tenth man, nor a bayonet to every twentieth. Many are destitute of Arms of every description, and appear on parade shouldering a staff in place of a firelock—Nor is the fault imputable to them—Arms they cannot procure, and it is the duty of the government to furnish them. I say the *duty* because I am warranted in saying so both by the intrinsic nature of the thing, and the constitution of our country. The fortieth article of the constitution ordains, that the militia of the state shall at all times, as well in peace as in war, be armed, disciplined and ready for service: and that a proper magazine of warlike stores, proportionate to the number of inhabitants, shall be forever thereafter, at the expence of the state, and by acts of the Legislature, established, maintained and continued in every county in the state. An injunction so solemn cannot consistent with duty be disregarded—Nor is the deficiency in arms greater than that in colors, and in martial music. Many regiments are totally destitute of the former and very ill provided with the latter. So great is the deficiency in this last particular, that with the exception of the city of New-York, there can scarcely be collected, throughout the state, a dozen drummers capable of distinguishing a retreat from a charge. If the Legislature should entertain doubts as to the importance of having in the militia, musicians skilled in the various branches of military music, I would recommend to their perusal the act of Congress of the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and three, for the organization of the militia of the district of Columbia.—They will find it there considered of sufficient magnitude, to justify the holding out considerable inducements to engagements in that service. I have found every where a laudable military ardor; an emulation to excel in military discipline and knowledge which if properly encouraged, and united with a just confidence in our own strength, may bid defiance to foreign aggression. To inspire that confidence is completely in the power of Government.

An exemplification of an act of the Legislature of the state of New-Jersey will be laid before you, from which it will appear that some controversy has arisen as to the limits of the territorial and jurisdictional rights of that state and this; an equitable and amicable mode of adjustment, by a reference to commissioners is proposed, which I presume will be acceded to.

To render your session, Gentlemen, agreeable to yourselves, and beneficial to our country, nothing on my part shall be wanting.

MORGAN LEWIS.

Albany, January 27, 1807.

Editor's Closet.

The Governor's Speech,

Some few passages excepted, will, we presume, meet the approbation of all parties.—His attention to the militia, and to the support of common schools, in particular, deserves commendation. But is his excellency sincere in his praises of the general government? The citizens of New-York will not agree with him in this.

State Legislature.

Our readers will find a brief sketch of the proceedings of our state legislature, communicated by a friend at Albany. The choice of Speaker and Clerk, and the nomination of the Council of Appointment, shew that an important change has taken place in the political affairs of this state. It will be seen that the party denominated Clintonian or Cheethamite, no longer enjoys the ascendency in our councils. The friends of Gov. Lewis, who claim to be the only true and sound republicans in the state, have at length deemed it advisable to break off their allegiance with that party, and to assume a firm and independent ground. They have found it necessary to oppose (what federalists have always opposed) the views of that restless, ambitious, and aristocratic faction which has too long reigned and ruled with a rod of iron. This will account for that unison of sentiment, which thus far appears to subsist between the federalists and the friends of the governor. If this unison of sentiment will tend in the slightest degree to promote the welfare of federalism, and to crush or weaken the bands of faction, we pray to heaven that it may long continue; but if it has no other tendency than to raise one section of the democratic party over the heads of the other, we cannot see that any good will result from it.

"ALBANY, *January* 27, 1807.

"This day, *Andrew M'Cord* was chosen Speaker, and *Garrit Y. Lansing*, Clerk of the Assembly. The majority in favor of Mr. M'Cord was in reality 13, though only 11 votes were counted, the name having been mistaken in two of the ballots.

"Next Friday is, at present, fixed for the election of the members of the Council of Appointment; and little doubt is entertained of the success again of the same party. The people seem at last to have awakened to the ambitious and tyrannical views of the Clintonian faction, and are determined to check a career which has continued too long, and must have proved fatal to the peace and safety of the state."

"*January* 28.

"This morning, the vote for postponing the election of a Council of Appointment until Friday next, was re-considered, and the time of election, after considerable and fruitless opposition by the Clintonians, fixed on two o'clock in the afternoon of this day. The votes stood on two divisions which were called for, 51 to 44. The Clintonians seem determined, since they cannot prevail, to embarrass and retard the proceedings, and occasion the waste of much time. Their opponents manifest coolness, firmness, and moderation. Before I close this, I hope to give you a list of the members elected.

"The members elected are, *John Nicholas, Edward Savage, James Burt*, and *Thomas Thomas*; one of whom had 52 votes, and another 53. The Clintonian ticket consisted of *Ezra L'Hommedieu, Nathan Smith, Peter C. Adams*, and *John Veeder*, the highest of whom had 44 votes. Thus you see that the republicans rather gained than lost. It is sincerely hoped that the new council will act with discretion, and not imitate the injustice and violence of their immediate predecessors."

The Albany Register does not yet "*douse his peak;*" but it is believed that no person would be willing to warrant his Clintonianism through the session.

It is said that some wonderful political conversions have been wrought within a few days. Many a staunch Cheethamite begins to ask, "what has Lewis done to deserve abuse?"

It is laughable to hear the book-binder and school-master at Catskill, when speaking to printers, dubbing themselves *fellow-craftsmen*, merely because they have purchased types.....without capital letters!—Hands off, good Messrs. Book-binder and School-master—ye are no fellow-craftsmen of mine.

The book-binder may make some pretensions to the profession of a printer, because he puts the covers on spelling-books—nd the school-master may do the same, because he learns children their ABC.

☞ A postponement of the HUDSON ASSEMBLY, from the 5th to the 12th of February, is agreed on, by the Managers. Jan. 30.

To Readers and Correspondents.

The *Boston Gazette* of the 26th ult. received by Saturday's mail, and the N. Y. E. Post, by the last mail, contain very copious and interesting details of foreign intelligence, but our paper was pre-occupied. The whole will appear in the *Newspaper* of Friday.

Several communications and editorial articles are also postponed.

Correction and Apology.

We published in our last, through misinformation, the marriage of Mr LEONARD VAN HORSEN, of this city, to Miss ABIGAIL FIELD, of Peekskill. For the error, we now offer the parties the only reparation in our power—a sincere and humble apology.

Political.

From the Albany Gazette.

NO. VI.

AT the opening of the session of 1805, the President's message complains that private armed vessels had infested our coasts and harbors, committing various outrages; and also that public armed ships, meaning the ships of Great Britain, under the pretence of seeking enemies, were in the practice of hovering on our coasts, making captures of our vessels, and carrying them in for adjudication, upon principles not warranted by the laws of nations. To punish the petty depredations of the former, he had resorted to measures of force; but, as a remedy against the more serious aggressions of Great Britain, he suggests the obligation we are under, not only for the public interests, but for the sake of "maintaining the authority of reason," to provide an effectual and determined opposition to the *doctrines* on which these captures and condemnations proceeded. In this vague light the important subject of British depredations is presented to Congress; and they proceed to legislate and to devise a remedy for these disorders. With barely sufficient energy to attempt the natural means of defence against unauthorized privateers, the Executive finds himself unequal to the attempt of protecting our shores against a few British frigates. Submitting passively to the daily insult of captures in the very mouths of our rivers, but indignant at the *doctrines* on which these outrages were justified, he calls upon Congress to resist these doctrines. What steps he himself had taken, either for protection or conciliation, the President does not inform; nor does he in any shape express his opinion, or recommend any measure or system of measures, in this exigency. Congress were left to legislate at random, to make a stroke in the dark. The stroke was struck, and it has rebounded with disgrace and defeat upon our own heads. They are now retracing their steps, and endeavoring to heal the wound inflicted by a vain experiment.

The measure of the non-importation act was a measure of apparent resentment and hostility, but of essential weakness and fear; a double fear, the fear of expense, and of an eventual collision with Great Britain. The one prevented those serious preparations which alone could operate on the interest of that power; the other prevented the stationing a reasonable force for the protection of our coasts. Unfortunately Congress were left to legislate upon narrow calculations, rather than broad and liberal views. They thought they could coerce Great Britain, by withholding from her merchants the advantages of our trade: They calculated, that by stopping up one channel of an immense commerce, they could stimulate the whole commercial interest of that country to rise in our favor: They seemed not to reflect that Great Britain, in a state of high excitement and energy from the very pressure under which she labored: that Great Britain, in the habit of great sacrifices, and enabled to support them by means of her naval power and commercial wealth, was little in a situation to feel or regard a mere puncture in one of the nerves of her immense system, a mere change of circulation in her gigantic body. With an uncertain hope of making an impression on her political system, but with a certain assurance that our own commerce would feel the shock in its vitals, the United States adopt the project of a non-importation act. This act, to save the expense of active measures, and to supply the defect of executive energy, prescribes to our country an immense sacrifice as the only means of relief. But dear as the remedy was to the merchants and people of the United States, it was, in a certain sense, cheap to the government. It required no *appropriations*, and was not calculated to figure in an annual *treasury report*.

That this measure of passive opposition was in perfect unison with the feelings and politics of the President, no doubt can exist As a measure of commercial repulsion, rather than of commercial protection, as a measure of cheap, and at the same time, irritating hostility, as a measure imposing sacrifices and embarrassments on a class of citizens not very high in his estimation, it coincided with all his prejudices: It was a measure concerted and carried into effect by his confidential friends.

But the non-intercourse act, though a serious inconvenience, an imprudent experiment, was not, in itself, the evil most to be lamented. The real evil is, the having deliberately passed such an act, with a moral certainty of its being repealed, or suspended in its operation, at the moment of its first pressure. The evil is, that a measure of general policy, of deliberate legislation should be rescinded upon a suggestion, without a change of circumstances, without any substantial information, without any public reason. This is the mischief that admits of no remedy. It is a national stain. I hesitate not to consider the suspension of the act upon such a suggestion as the President's special message contains, as a virtual rescinding or repeal. As an experiment, the whole force of the act (as far as an act bottomed on false principles could have force) was in the practical effect;—which alone could shew the foreign government, that it was a substantial measure, intended for and capable of execution. Had the act been accompanied and supported by other measures of resistance and defence involving expense, pledging the national resources, and thereby evincing a determined system of public conduct, it might have made some impression, even as a paper measure:—But standing alone, without preparations to second it, hurtful chiefly to ourselves, a mere indication of what might be done in a more extreme case, it could have no possible effect. but upon a fair trial To suspend the operation of a solemn law. a chosen measure of defence, was to confess the weakness of its origin and give it a double stamp of folly. Let it not be forgot that an act of non-intercourse is a measure of compulsory redress, and so far hostile defensively hostile. It has been called a *commercial regulation* by those who want an excuse for the suspending act, and who are ingenious in finding one. They would pretend that a mere regulation, having nothing of national hostility, has nothing of delicacy attached to it; and that our honor, in such a case, is not concerned in maintaining the ground we have taken: But in fact, the sole motive of the act, its acknowledged aim, and the whole argument on which it was grounded, falsify this pretence. As a measure of hostility therefore, adopted with solemnity, nothing could justify its suspension, but very strong reasons not existing at the passage of the law. Do any such reasons now exist? What evidence have we of their existence? Let us here take a nearer view of the subject, and attend to the language of the President's special message. This message is among the few communications from the present Chief Magistrate, on our more important relations, which are found to contain any specific recommendation: It advises a suspension of the non-importation act. Why the matter of this message was not incorporated in the public message at the opening, it is not easy to say. The information alluded to was in the President's possession, and claimed, from its importance, a prominent place in that communication. Both ought to be taken as instruments of even date and considered together. The father of the non-intercourse act is to be held as the author of the suspending act.

The special message informs congress, that the negociation with the British government was proceeding in a spirit of friendship and accommodation, which promised a result of mutual advantage; that delays had taken place occasioned by the illness and death of the British minister; that the commissioners appointed by that government to resume the negociation had shewn every disposition to hasten its progress; that it was however a work of time, as many arrangements were necessary to place our future harmony on stable grounds; and *that in the mean time we found by the communications of our plenipotentiaries that a temporary suspension of the act of the last session prohibiting certain importations would, as a mark of candid disposition on our part, and of confidence in the views with which they have been met, have a happy effect on its course.* The President therefore advises the suspension.

Here is a complete revolution effected in the sentiments and system of the administration. At the last session a solemn act is passed attacking the commerce of Great-Britain. This hardy measure was intended as an address to the interests and the fears of that nation. The object was to compel her to come to an arrangement with us for the redress of injuries and the restoration of harmony. In a word, it was intended to hasten a negociation then pending.—Now it appears that the act instead of being a stimulus to negociation is a clog upon it. What then has occurred to make that an obstacle, which was meant as a facility? What discovery is made of new principles that now influence the British cabinet? What change has taken place in the system of their politics? A wise legislature [illegible] general principles, or on specific and important facts well ascertained. Allowing then all the represen-

tations in the message to be correctly made what do they amount to? That negociation is proceeding in a spirit of *friendship* and *accommodation*, that is, as may well be supposed, with mutual assurances between the negociators of amicable and liberal dispositions; that the commissioners appointed by that government had shewn every disposition to hasten its progress, that is, upon such principles and terms as would be consistent with their own interests; and that, in the mean time, a suspension of our measures of defence and security, would, in their opinion, have a favorable influence. There is no one of these suggestions, but what may be very natural and probable; and yet, on what solid ground is our government proceeding to reverse the order of its measures, infringing on on its own plan, and parting with its legal securities? Truly on the ground of a mere re-commencement of negociation; on the ground of professions of amity, liberality and courtesy made by the gentleman entrusted with the British interests; on the ground of a mere opinion held out by our ministers, supported by a correspondent opinion of our President. Well may the question be renewed, what *authentic evidence* has Congress of a change in the British system in regard to American commerce? What certain fixed leading *principle* has been agreed upon between the negociators favorable to us and promising a happy result? What fair *pledge* has been given of reasonable satisfaction or of future good conduct. The Plenipotentiaries say, and the President seconds the intimation, that a suspension of a law of the United States would have a favorable influence on the negociation. But how is it to have such influence? How does a particular law impede negociation? Negociation is to settle differences; and it is a solecism to say, that any legislative measure has, in its nature a tendency to impede negociation. This is a process always collateral to and distinct from any other national measures. Without doubt the obstacle is this act; and the message itself affords internal proof of it. The negociation having been renewed, the non-importation law became an early subject of discussion, a new but preliminary topic; the British commissioners, after many professions and good wishes which are doubtless sincere, complain of that act as betraying a want of confidence towards the British government: they suggest that the act is of too hostile a nature to be tolerated between friends, who are about to settle all their mutual grievances; that a repeal or suspension of it would "as a mark of candor on our part have a happy effect on the course of the negociation," and then modestly stipulate for its suspension. This must be the true way to account for the difficulty. But indeed it signifies little whether a law of the United States is suspended on the stipulation of a foreign negociator or on the mere opinion of an American minister, or on the mere suggestion of the President. In either case the dignity of the government and nation is committed.

PUBLIUS.

No. V. of Publius, having been mislaid, we are compelled to change the order of publishing the pieces.

Hudson, *February 3.*

Be it our weekly task,
To note the passing tidings of the times.

FOREIGN.

If the late French accounts are to be credited, they have pursued their successes, until the Prussian army is reduced to about 15,000 men, with which the king was retreating to Koningsburg. Magdeburgh is said to have been taken on the 11th Nov. —A large Russian army, however, was approaching, and the English accounts say, a battle had been fought, in which the French were defeated.

The French troops have taken possession of Hamburgh, and confiscated all the British property found there.

THE CONSPIRACY.

By the schooner Reynard, arrived this morning in 9 days from Charleston, we have received the Charleston City Gazette of January 14th, which says: "The Revenue Cutter belonging to this port, sailed yesterday morning for the Chesapeake.—We understand that Dr. Erick Bollman, who lately arrived at Fort Johnson, rom New-Orleans, as a state-prisoner, has been sent in her."—*Ev. Post.*

Washington, Jan. 21.

The following is a copy of the return made by Gen. Wilkinson to the writ of habæs corpus issued at New-Orleans for the body of Erick Bollman, and in his address to the court on the occasion, general Wilkinson denounced the two lawyers* who had procured the writ, as parties in the conspiracy. It appears that young Swartwout delivered general Wilkinson the original of the letter, which gave him full and complete information of all Burr's plans, and Dr. Bollman presented the copy—Swartwout was seized and is now under guard on his way to Baltimore. Bollman has arrived at Charleston under the care of lieut. Wilson, of the artillery. Had Congress suspended the habæs corpus act, all the conspirators at New-Orleans would have been seized, and many traitors might have been secured in different parts of the Union.—Young Ogden, who accompanied Swartwout, was seized, but obtained a habæs corpus, and was released. He is now at large.

COPY.

The undersigned, commanding the army of the United States, takes on himself all the responsibility for the arrest of Dr. Erick Bollman, on a charge of misprision of treason, against the government and laws of the United States, and has adopted measures for his safe delivery to the executive of the United States. It was after several consultations with the governor and two of the judges of this territory, that the undersigned has hazarded this step, for the national safety menaced to its base, by a lawless band of traitors associated under A. Burr, whose accomplices are extended from New-York to this city. No man can hold in higher reverence, the civil institutions of this country, than the undersigned, and it is to maintain and perpetuate the holy attributes of the constitution, against the uplifted hand of violence, that he has interposed the force of arms in a moment of extreme peril, to seize upon Bollman as he will upon all others, without regard to standing or station, against whom satisfactory proofs may arise of a participation in the lawless combination.

JAS. WILKINSON.

Head-Quarters—Army of the United States, New-Orleans, December 27, 1807.

* Messrs. Livingston and Alexander.

Baltimore, Jan. 8.

Arrived at Annapolis, schooner Lavater, Williamson, from New-Orleans.

Also schooners Greyhound and Nimrod, from New-Orleans: In the Nimrod came passenger Mr. Swartwout, under the charge of lieutenants Wilson and Mead; they proceeded to Washington this morning. The Lavater brought dispatches to government. The state of our affairs remained much the same as at the date of our last advices. The embargo was still continued. Ogden and Alexander had been arrested, and were to be sent to Washington in the schooner Brothers and Sisters, which would sail in a few days after the Lavater.

From a person who came in the Lavater, arrived at Annapolis from New-Orleans, we understand that a proclamation had been issued at that place by the constituted authorities, offering a reward for the apprehension of Col. Burr, or the communication of any intelligence relative to the conspiracy. The attack was expected to be made on New-Orleans by Burr and his adherents on the 20th of this month, instead of the 20th of December, as stated by an arrival at Charleston, and published a few days since.

Nashville, Dec. 27.

Col. Burr's Expedition. On Monday last Col. Burr sailed from this place with two boats, (not gun-boats.) There were on board several families, horses and cattle. We understand he is to be joined by a number of boats at the mouth of Cumberland river; it is reported, and generally believed here, that he is destined against Mexico and the Spanish provinces in that quarter. Time will unveil this mystery.

In addition to the above paragrsph we are further informed, that two more boats will follow Col. Burr on Sunday next, from this place, loaded with provisions.

A letter from a gentleman at Washington, to the editor of the Balance, received by the Thursday's mail, says,

"Dr. Bollman and Mr. Swartwout are now here, state-prisoners."

We have received from an obliging correspondent at Washington, the following Message, which we insert, to the exclusion of a variety of other matter, of less importance:—

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

AGREEABLY to the request of the House of Representatives, communicated in their resolution of the sixteenth instant, I proceed to state, under the reserve therein expressed, information received touching an illegal combination of private individuals against the peace and safety of the union, and a military expedition planned by them against the territories of a power in amity with the United States, with the measures I have pursued for suppressing the same.

I had, for some time, been in the constant expectation of receiving such further information as would have enabled me to lay before the legislature the termination, as well as the beginning and progress of this scene of depravity so far as it has been acted on the Ohio and its waters. From this the state of safety of the lower country might have been estimated on probable grounds, and the delay was indulged the rather, because no circumstance had made it necessary to call in the aid of the legislative functions. Information now recently communicated, has brought us nearly to the period contemplated. The mass of what I have received in the course of these transactions is voluminous: but little has been given under the sanction of an oath, so as to constitute formal and legal evidence. It is chiefly in the form of letters, often containing such a mixture of rumours, conjectures and suspicions, as renders it difficult to sift out the real facts, and unadvisable to hazard more than general outlines, strengthened by concurrent information, or the particular credibility of the relator. In this state of the evidence, delivered sometimes too under the restriction of private confidence, neither safety nor justice will permit the exposing names, except that of the principal actor, whose guilt is placed beyond question.

Some time in the latter part of September, I received intimations that designs were in agitation in the western country, unlawful, and unfriendly to the peace of the union; and that the prime mover in these was Aaron Burr, heretofore distinguished by the favor of his country. The grounds of these intimations being inconclusive, the objects uncertain, and the fidelity of that country known to be firm, the only measure taken was to urge the informants to use their best endeavors to get further insight into the designs and proceedings of the suspected persons; and to communicate them to me.

It was not till the latter part of Oct. that the objects of the conspiracy began to be perceived; but still so blended, and involved in mystery, that nothing distinct could be singled out for pursuit. I thought it best to send to the scene, where these things were principally in transaction, a person in whose integrity, understanding and discretion, entire confidence could be reposed, with instructions to investigate the plots going on, to enter into conference (for which he had sufficient credentials) with the governors and all other officers, civil and military, and with their aid, to do on the spot whatever should be necessary to discover the designs of the conspirators, arrest their means, bring their persons to punishment, and to call out the force of the country to suppress any unlawful enterprize, in which it should be found they were engaged. By this time it was known that many boats were under preparation, stores of provisions collecting, and an unusual number of suspicious characters in motion on the Ohio, and its waters. Besides dispatching the confidential agent to that quarter, orders were at the same time sent to the governors of the Orleans and Mississippi territories, and the commanders of the land and naval forces there, to be on their guard against surprize, and in constant readiness to resist any enterprize which might be attempted on the vessels, posts, or other objects under their care: and on the eighth of November, instructions were forwarded general Wilkinson, to hasten an accommodation with the Spanish commandant on the Sabine, and as soon as that was effected, to fall back with his principal force to the hither bank of the Mississippi, for the defence of the interesting points on that river. By a letter received from that officer of Nove. 25, but dated Oct. 21, we learnt that a confidential agent of A. Burr, had been deputed to him, with communications, partly written in cypher, and partly oral, explaining his designs, exaggerating his resources, and making such offers of emolument and command, to engage him and the army in his unlawful enterprizes as he had flattered himself would be successful. The general, with the honor of a soldier, and fidelity of a good citizen, immediately dispatched a trusty officer to me, with information of what had passed, proceeded to establish such an understanding with the Spanish commandant on the Sabine, as permitted him to withdraw his force across the Mississippi, and to enter on measures for opposing the projected enterprize.

The general's letter, which came to hand on the twenty-fifth of November, as has been mentioned, and some other information received a few days earlier, when brought together, developed Burr's general designs, different parts of which only had been revealed to different informants. It appeared that he contemplated two distinct objects, which might be carried on either jointly or separately, and either the one or the other first, as circumstances should direct. One of these was the severance of the union of these states by the Allegany mountains; the other an attack on Mexico. A third object was provided, merely ostensible, to wit, the settlement of a pretended purchase of a tract of country on the Washita, claimed by a baron Bastrop. This was to serve as the pretext for all his preparations, an allurement for such followers as really wished to acquire settlements in that country, and a cover under which to retreat in the event of a final discomfiture of both branches of his real design.

He found at once that the attachment of the western country to the present union, was not to be shaken; that its dissolution could not be effected with the consent of its inhabitants, and that his resources were inadequate, as yet, to effect it by force. He took his course then at once, determined to seize on New-Orleans, plunder the bank there, possess himself of the military and naval stores, and proceed on his expedition to Mexico; and to this object all his means and preparations were now directed. He collected from all quarters where himself or his agent possessed influence, all the ardent, restless, desperate, and disaffected persons who were ready for any enterprize analogous to their characters. He seduced good and well meaning citizens, some by assurances that he possessed the confidence of the government, and was acting under its secret patronage; a pretence which procured some credit from the state of our differences with Spain; and others by offers of land in Bastrop's claim on the Washita.

This was the state of my information of his proceedings, about the last of November; at which time, therefore, it was first possible to take specific measures to meet them. The proclamation of November twenty-seventh, two days after the receipt of general Wilkinson's information, was now issued. Orders were dispatched to every interesting point on the Ohio and Mississippi, from Pittsburg to New Orleans, for the employment of such force, either of the regulars or of the militia, and of such proceedings also of the civil authorities, as might enable them to seize on all boats and stores provided for the enterprize, to arrest the persons concerned, and to suppress effectually the further progress of the enterprize. A little before the receipt of these orders in the state of Ohio, our confidential agent, who had been diligently employed in investigating the conspiracy had acquired sufficient information to open himself to the governor of that state, and to apply for the immediate exertion of the authority and power of the state, to crush the combination. Governor Tiffin and the legislature, with a promptitude, an energy, and patriotic zeal, which entitle them to a distinguished place in the affection of their sister states, effected the seizure of all the boats, provisions, and other preparations within their reach; and thus gave a first blow, materially disabling the enterprize in its outset.

In Kentucky a premature attempt to bring Burr to justice, without sufficient evidence for his conviction, had produced a popular impression in his favor, and a general disbelief of his guilt. This gave him an unfortunate opportunity of hastening his equipments. The arrival of the proclamation and orders, and the application and information of our confidential agent, at length awakened the authorities of that state to the truth, and then produced the same promptitude and energy of which the neighboring state had set the example. Under an act of their legislature of December twenty-third, militia was instantly ordered to different important points, and measures taken for doing whatever could yet be done. Some boats (accounts vary from five to double or treble that number) and persons (differently estimated from one to three hundred) had in the mean time passed the falls of Ohio, to rendezvous at the mouth of Cumberland, with others expected down that river.

Not apprized, till very late, that any boats were building on Cumberland, the effect of the proclamation had been trusted to for some time in the state of Tennessee;

but on the nineteenth of December similar communications and instructions, with those to the neighboring states, were dispatched by express, to the governor and a general officer of the western division of the state; and on the 23d of December, our confidential agent left Frankfort for Nashville, to put into activity, the means of that state also. But by information received yesterday, I learn that on the 22d of December, Mr Burr descended the Cumberland, with two boats merely of accomodation, carrying from that state no quota towards his unlawful enterprize. Whether after the arrival of the proclamation, of the orders, or of our agent, any exertion which could be made by that state, or the orders of the governor of Kentucky for calling out the militia at the mouth of Cumberland, would be in time to arrest these boats, and those from the falls of Ohio, is still doubtful.

On the whole the fugitives from the Ohio, with their associates from Cumberland, or any other place in that quarter, cannot threaten serious danger to the city of N. Orleans.

By the same express of December nineteenth, orders were sent to the governors of Orleans and Mississippi, supplementary to those which had been given on the 25th of November, to hold the militia of their territories in readiness to co-operate for their defence with the regular troops and armed vessels then under command of gen. Wilkinson. Great alarm indeed was excited at N. Orleans, by the exaggerated accounts of Mr. Burr, disseminated through his emissaries, of the armies and navies he was to assemble there. Gen. Wilkinson had arrived there on the twenty-fourth of November, and had immediately put into activity the resources of that place, for the purpose of its defence;—and on the tenth of December he was joined by his troops from the Sabine. Great zeal was shewn by the inhabitants generally; the merchants of the place readily agreeing to the most laudable exertions for manning the armed vessels with their seamen, and the other citizens manifesting unequivocal fidelity to the union, and a spirit of determined resistance to their expected assailants.

Surmises have been hazarded that this enterprize is to receive aid from certain foreign powers. But these surmises are without proof or probability. The wisdom of the measures sanctioned by congress at its last session, has placed us in the paths of peace and justice, with the only powers with whom we had any differences; and nothing has happened since which makes it either their interest or ours to pursue another course. No change of measures has taken place on our part: none ought to take place at this time. With the one, friendly arrangement was then proposed, and the law deemed necessary on failure of that was suspended to give time for a fair trial of the issue. With the same power friendly arrangement is now proceeding, under good expectations, and the same law, deemed necessary on failure of that, is still suspended to give time for a fair trial of the issue. With the other, negociation was in like manner then preferred, and provisional measures only taken to meet the event of the rupture. While therefore we do not deflect in the slightest degree from the course we then assumed, and are still pursuing, with mutual consent, to restore a good understanding, we are not to impute to them practices as irreconcileable to interest as to good faith, and changing necessarily the relations of peace to those of war. These surmises are therefore to be imputed to the vauntings of the author of this enterprize to multiply his partizans by magnifying the belief of his prospects and support.

By letters from gen. Wilkinson of the 14th and 18th of December, which came to hand two days after the date of the resolution of the House of Representatives, that is to say, on the morning of the 18th instant, I received the important affidavit, a copy of which I now communicate, with extracts of so much of the letters as comes within the scope of the resolution. By these it will be seen that of three of the principal emissaries of Mr. Burr, whom the general had caused to be apprehended, one had been liberated by habeas corpus, and two others, being those particularly employed in the endeavor to corrupt the general and army of the United States, have been embarked by him for ports, in the Alantic States, probably on the consideration that an impartial trial could not be expected, during the present agitations of New-Orleans, and that that city was not as yet a safe place of confinement. As soon as these persons shall arrive, they will be delivered to the custody of the law, and left to such course of trial both as to place and process, as its functionaries may direct. The presence of the highest judicial authorities, to be assembled at this place within a few days, the means of pursuing a sounder course of proceedings here than elsewhere, and the aid of the executive means, should the judges have occasion to use them, render it equally desirable, for the criminal as for the public, that, being already removed from the place where they were apprehended, the first regular arrest should take place here, and the course of proceedings receive here its proper direction.

TH: JEFFERSON.

January 22, 1807.

Extract of a letter from Gen. James Wilkinson, dated New Orleans, December 14 1806.

After several consultations with the governor and judges, touching the arrest and confinement of certain known agents and emissaries of colonel Burr in this city and territory, whose intrigues and machinations were to be apprehended, it is with their privity and approbation that I have caused three of them to be arrested viz. doctor Erick Bollman, Samuel Swartwout, and Peter V. Ogden, against whom I possess strong facts, and I have recommended to the governor to have James Alexander, esq. taken up on the grounds of strong suspicion. These persons and all others who, by their character and deportment, may be considered hostile to the interests of the United States, or dangerous to this feeble frontier under the menacing aspect of things from above, will, if my influence can prevail, be seized and sent by sea to the United States, subject to the disposition of the government, and accompanied by such information as may justify their confinement, and furnish a clue to the developement of the grounds, progress and projectures of the treasonable enterprize in which they are engaged.

This letter will accompany doctor Bollman, who is to be this day embarked in a vessel bound for Charleston, under the charge of lieutenant Wilson of the artillery, who has orders to land with his prisoner at fort Jonston or fort Moultrie, to forward this dispatch by mail, and to wait the orders of the executive. Mr. Swartwout will be sent to Baltimore by a vessel which will sail some time in the ensuing week, in custody of another subaltern, who will be the bearer of strong testimony against him and also colonel Burr, and the others will follow under due precautions, by the earliest opportunities which may present.

I deem it essential to keep these prisoners apart to prevent the adjustment of correspondent answers, or confessions to any examinations which may ensue, and I hope the measures of the executive may be so prompt and efficient as to relieve the officers in charge of them from their trust before the interposition of the friends of the prisoners may effect their liberation.

By this procedure we may intimidate the confederates, who are unquestionably numerous in this as well as the adjacent territory, disconcert their arrangements and possibly destroy their intrigues; and I hope the zeal which directs the measures may be justified and approved, for whilst the glow of patriotism actuates my conduct, and I am willing to offer myself a martyr to the constitution of my country, I should indeed be most grievously disappointed did I incur its censure.

Here, sir, we find the key to the western states, and here we must form one grand depository and place of arms; combine to this disposition a river fleet competent to its occlusion, and post it thirty or forty leagues above the Yazoo river, and we may repose in security, for the discontent and sufferings of our insurgent citizens which must immediately ensue, will soon open their eyes to the wickedness of their leaders, and work a radical reformation without blood shed. This is my plan for resisting an internal attack; for external defence gun boats and bomb ketches, with floating batteries at the mouths of the Mississippi, and the passes from lake Ponchartrain, will be necessary.

From the same, dated Dec 18.

Since my last of the 14th instant, writs of habeas corpus have been issued for the bodies of Bollman, Swartwout, and Ogden; the two latter by Judge Workman, who is strongly suspected of being connected with Burr in his conspiracy, as I have proof this man declared some since that "the republican who possessed power, and did not employ it to establish a despotism, was a fool."

His writ for Ogden was served on captain Shaw, of the navy, who had him in charge at my request, on board the Etna, bomb ketch, and delivered him up; and Mr. Workman discharged him without giving me a word of information, although he knew he was confined by my order for a treasonable combination with Burr, and Mr. Ogden now struts at large. Swartwout I have sent off, and shall so report, holding myself ready for consequences.—Bollman was required by the superior court, but I have got rid of that affair also, under the usual liability for damages, in which case I shall look to our country for protection.

I, James Wilkinson, brigadier general and commander in chief of the army of the United States, to warrant the arrest of Doctor Erick Bollman on a charge of treason, misprision of treason, or such other offence against the government and laws of the United States, as the following facts may legally charge him with, on my honor as a soldier, and on the holy evangelists of Almighty God, do declare and swear, that on the sixth day of November last, when in command at Natchitoches, I received by the hands of a Frenchman, a stranger to me, a letter from Doctor Erick Bollman, of which the following is a correct copy.

"NEW-ORLEANS, Sept. 27, 1806.

SIR,

"I have the honor to forward to your excellency the enclosed letters, which I was charged to deliver to you by our mutual friend. I shall remain for some time at this place, and should be glad to learn where and when I may have the pleasure of an interview with you. Have the goodness to inform me of it, and please to direct your letter to me, care of

, or inclose it under cover to them.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obed't servt,

(Signed) ERICK BOLLMAN.

Gen. WILKINSON.

—

Covering a communication in cypher from colonel Aaron Burr, of which the following is substantially as fair an interpretation as I have heretofore been able to make, the original of which I hold in my possession: "I (Aaron Burr) have obtained funds and have actually commenced the enterprize. Detachments from different points and under different pretences will rendezvous on the Ohio, 1st. November. Every thing internal and external favors views; protection of England is secured. *T.— is gone to Jamaica to arrange with the admiral on that station, and will meet at the Mississippi——England——navy of the United States are ready to join, and final orders are given to my friends and followers; it will be an host of choice spirits. Wilkinson shall be second to Burr only; Wilkinson shall dictate and promote the rank of his officers. Burr will proceed westward 1st. August, never to return; with *him* go his daughter; the husband will follow in October with a *corps of worthies*; send forthwith an intelligent and confidential friend, with whom Burr may confer; he shall return immediately with further interesting details: this is essential to concert and harmony of movement; send a list of all persons known to Wilkinson west of the mountains, who could be useful with a note delineating their characters.

By your messenger send me four or five of the commissions of your officers, which you can borrow under any pretence you please: they shall be returned faithfully: already are orders to the contractor given to forward six months provisions to points Wilkinson may name: This shall not be used until the last moment, and then under proper injunctions: the project is brought to the point so long desired: Burr guarantees the result with his life and honor, and the lives, the honor, and fortunes of hundreds, the best blood of our country; Burr's plan of operations is to move down rapidly from the falls on the fifteenth November, with the first five hundred or one thousand men, in light boats, now constructing for that purpose; to be at Natchez between the fifth and fifteenth of December, then to meet Wilkinson; then to determine whether it will be expedient in the first instance to seize on or pass by Baton Rouge: on receipt of this send Burr an answer: draw on Burr for all expenses, &c. The people of the country to which we are going are prepared to receive us: their agents now with Burr say, that if we will protect their religion, and will not subject them to a foreign power, that in three weeks all will be settled. The Gods invite to glory and fortune: it remains to be seen, whether we deserve the boon: the bearer of this goes express to you; he will hand a formed letter of introduction to you from Burr, a copy of which is hereunto subjoined: he is a man of inviolable honor and perfect discretion: formed to execute rather than to project; capable of relating facts with fidelity, and incapable of relating them otherwise: he is thoroughly informed of the plans and intentions and will disclose to you as far as you enquire, and no further: he has imbibed a reverence for your character, and may be embarrassed in your presence; put him at ease and he will satisfy you: doctor Bollman equally confidential, better informed on the subject, will hand this duplicate." 29th July.

—

The day after my arrival at this city, the 26th of November last, I received another letter from the Doctor of which the following is a correct copy:

NEW-ORLEANS, Nov. 25, 1806.

"SIR,

"Your letter of the 16th inst. has been duly received; supposing that you will be much engaged this morning I defer waiting on your excellency till you will be pleased to inform me of the time when it will be convenient to you to see me."

I remain, with great respect,

Your excellency's most obedient servant,

ERICK BOLLMAN.

His excellency

GENERAL WILKINSON, Fauxbourg.

—

MARIGNY, the house between madame Trevigny and M. M'Carty.

On the 30th of the same month I waited in person on Dr. E. Bollman when he informed me that he had not heard from Col. Burr since his arrival here. That he (the said doctor E. Bollman) had sent dispatches to colonel Burr by a lieutenant Spence, of the navy, and that he had been advised of Spence's arrival at Nashville in the state of Tennessee, and observed that colonel Burr had proceeded too far to retreat; that he (colonel Burr) had numerous and powerful friends in the U. States, who stood pledged to support him with their fortunes, and that he must succeed. That he (the said Dr. Bollman) had written to colonel Burr on the subject of provisions, and that he expected a supply would be sent from New-York and also from Norfolk, where colonel Burr had strong connexions. I did not see or hear from the doctor again until the 5th instant, when I called on him the second time. The mail having arrived the day before I asked him whether he had received any intelligence from colonel Burr; he informed me that he had seen a letter from colonel Burr, of the 30th October, in which he (colonel Burr) gave assurances that he should be at Natchez with 2000 men on the 10th December, instant, where he should wait until he heard from this place; that he would be followed by 4000 men more, and that he (colonel Burr) if he had chosen, could have raised or got 12,000 as easily as 6000 but that he did not think that number necessary. Confiding fully in this information, I became indifferent about further disguise. I then told the doctor, that I should most certainly oppose colonel Burr if he came this way. He replied that they must come here for equipments and shipping, and observed that he did not know what had passed between colonel Burr and myself, obliqued at a sham defence, and waved the subject.

From the documents in my possession and the several communications verbal as well as written, from the said Dr. Erick Bollman, on this subject, I feel no hesitation in declaring under the solemn obligation of an oath, that he has committed misprison of treason against the government of the United States.

(Signed) JAMES WILKINSON.

Signed and sworn to this 14th day of December 1806, before me one of the justices of the peace of this county.

(Signed) J. CARRICK.

—

PHILADELPHIA, July 25, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Swartwout, the brother of colonel S. of New-York, being on his way down the Mississippi, and presuming that he may pass you at some post on the river, has requested of me a letter of introduction which I give with pleasure, as he is a most amiable young man, and highly respectable from his character and connexions. I pray you to afford him any friendly offices which his situation may require, and beg you to pardon the trouble which this may give you.

With entire respect,

Your friend and obedient servant,

A BURR.

His excellency General WILKINSON.

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* Tarleton.